

We truly appreciate the outstanding work that Ms. Reese has done to preserve and venerate the history and contributions of African Americans. Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Ms. Reese for her wonderful service to Pinellas County and to the State of Florida.

EXTRAORDINARY AMBASSADOR

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, during the President's Day break, I was grateful to chair a House Armed Services Committee delegation to the United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Jordan, and Iraq.

With Congressmen BRAD ASHFORD, SETH MOULTON, and ELISE STEFANIK, we met world leaders in the midst of forcefully protecting their citizens in the Global War on Terrorism.

Coordinating the itinerary were House professional staffers Pete Villano and Lindsay Kavanaugh, with military input by Major Brad Grane, U.S. Army, Colonel Dan Greenwood, U.S. Marine Corps, and Major Tony Garofano, U.S. Marine Corps.

At each step we were greeted and briefed by experienced, dedicated, and enthusiastic U.S. Ambassadors, including Barbara Leaf at Abu Dhabi in the UAE, Michael McKinley in Afghanistan, Alice Wells in Jordan, Douglas Silliman in Kuwait, and Stuart Jones in Iraq. Each has recruited talented foreign-service officers to promote warm relations with our allies in the Middle East and Central Asia.

A key way to protect American citizens at home from terrorists is to promote stable, prosperous, and unified allies abroad. Radical Islamists have declared war on Americans and plan to exterminate Jews. Moreover, in the last ten days, they have slaughtered their fellow Muslims from Peshawar, Pakistan, in a mosque, to burning alive over 30 innocent civilians in al-Baghdadi, Iraq, while beheading 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians in Libya, and murdering Jews in Copenhagen.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops, and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

CASA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA) of Jefferson and Gilpin Counties for their outstanding service to the local community.

CASA's mission is to provide trained volunteers to advocate in court for the safety and well-being of abused and neglected children. CASA volunteers attend 35 hours of intensive

training before being appointed to a case of child abuse or neglect. Each volunteer commits to stay with the case until it has concluded to ensure they are able to advocate for the child's best interests in the areas of education, health, foster placement, and most importantly a permanent and safe home.

I extend my deepest congratulations to CASA of Jefferson and Gilpin Counties for their honor as Nonprofit of the Year by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt they will exhibit the same service and dedication in all future accomplishments.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. MARY GAILE EDWARDS WINGARD

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mary Gaile Edwards Wingard, who died peacefully in the presence of her beloved family on Tuesday, January 27, 2015. Gaile was a pillar of the Jacksonville community. An avid volunteer and both loving mother and grandmother, she was dearly loved by everyone who knew her. The First Coast will truly miss this incredible woman.

With a ready smile, quick wit, and abundant southern charm, Gaile made everyone she met feel at ease. She lived her life with a passionate devotion to her loved ones and her family. Whether it was volunteering for one of the numerous organizations around town or simply living the role of loving grandmother, Gaile never did anything half-way. Jacksonville will be forever thankful for her selfless dedication.

Gaile's quiet strength and loving spirit will long be remembered by our city. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Joseph Theodore Wingard, Jr.; her children, Joseph Theodore Wingard III and his wife Pam, Jonathan David Wingard and his wife Heather, and Katherine Wingard Sherman and her husband Nate; her grandsons, Matthew Alexander Wingard, Jonathan Michael Wingard, Jonathan Ramsay Wingard, Joseph Theodore Wingard, Nathaniel Alden Sherman, Jr., and an unborn granddaughter to be named Beatrice Gaile Sherman; her sister Jeanne Edwards Yarborough; and six nieces.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the Wingard family. I am forever grateful to have known such an amazing woman.

IN HONOR OF THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. This program is a wonderful educational and cultural exchange for both the

congressional intern and office. The Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program annually delivers some of Australia's best and brightest university students for two month internships in our offices. During their time in our nation's Capitol, these student-ambassadors continue to develop their commitment to civic engagement and public service.

This year I welcomed student-ambassador Emma Lee who has been a great example of the high quality students who are involved in this program. Emma is a Masters candidate from the University of Sydney, with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wollongong where she was a Dean's Scholar. She has been an invaluable asset to our office these past two months.

Throughout her time in this office, she has had the chance to pursue her interests on a range of issues, from foreign affairs, human rights, and diplomacy to food security and the environment. She has attended committee briefings, drafted constituent correspondence, and assisted my staff with research. Her Australian accent has garnered the attention of many of my constituents on tours and over the phone. She is often asked to share her experiences in Washington, DC.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Internship Program and to thank Emma Lee for her participation, time, and hard work.

REMEMBERING THE LIVES LOST DURING THE KHOJALY MASSACRE AND "BLACK JANUARY" IN AZERBAIJAN

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for very important reasons. First, I would like to commemorate the tragedy that took place in Khojaly, Azerbaijan, where on February 25, 1992, 23 years ago, 444 mostly elderly men, 106 women and 63 children were brutally killed. Please join me in recognizing the horrific atrocities that took place during the month of February in Khojaly, Azerbaijan.

Secondly, I would like to recognize the night of January 19, 1990, as "Black January." On this day, 26,000 Soviet troops invaded the capital city of Baku and surrounding areas. By the end of the following day, more than 130 people had died, 611 were injured, 841 were arrested and 5 were missing. This event is memorialized as "Black January," and, for the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan this event left an indelible mark on their minds and hearts.

Although Azerbaijan thrives today, the people of Azerbaijan recognize those who lost their lives in Black January, 1990, and honor their sacrifice through their commitment to the ideals of democracy.

Mr. Speaker, Azerbaijan is a strong ally of the United States in a strategically important and complex region of the world. I ask my colleagues to join me and our Azerbaijani friends in commemorating the tragedy that occurred in the town of Khojaly as well as Black January.